

# SEPTIC SYSTEM DO'S AND DON'Ts

**Do** learn the location of your septic tank and drainfield. Keep a sketch of it on hand with your maintenance record for service visits.

**Do** have your septic tank pumped out regularly by a licensed contractor.

**Do** keep your septic tank cover accessible for inspections and pumpings. Install risers if necessary.

**Do** call a professional whenever you experience problems with your system, or if there are any signs of system failure.

**Do** keep a detailed record of repairs, pumpings, inspections, permits issued, and other maintenance activities.

**Do** conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets

**Do** divert other sources of water, like roof drains, house footing drains, and sump pumps, away from the septic system. Excessive water keeps the soil in the drainfield from naturally cleansing the wastewater.

## WARNING

NEVER ALLOW ANYONE TO ENTER A SEPTIC TANK ALONE OR GO DOWN IN A SEPTIC TANK. TOXIC GASES ARE PRODUCED BY THE NATURAL TREATMENT PROCESSES IN SEPTIC TANKS AND CAN KILL IN MINUTES – EVEN JUST LOOKING IN THE TANK CAN BE DANGEROUS.

**Don't** allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system.

**Don't** plant anything over or near the drainfield except grass. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage the drain lines.

**Don't** dig in your drainfield or build anything over it, and don't cover the drainfield with a hard surface such as concrete or asphalt. The area over the drainfield should have only a grass cover. The grass will not only prevent erosion, it will help remove excess water.

**Don't** make or allow repairs to your septic system without obtaining the required permit. Use professional licensed septic contractors when needed.

**Don't** use septic tank additives. These products usually do not help and some may even be harmful to your system.

**Don't** use your toilet as a trash can or poison your septic system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals and cleansers down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.

**Don't** use a garbage disposal. Instead compost kitchen waste.

**Don't** allow backwash from home water softeners to enter the septic system.

## Do Not Flush

Coffee Grounds  
Dental Floss  
Disposable Diapers  
Kitty Litter  
Sanitary Napkins  
Tampons  
Cigarette Butts  
Condoms  
Fat, Grease, or Oil  
Paper Towels  
Disposable Wipes/Towelettes  
Facial Tissue  
Bandages  
Hair  
Unwanted Medications

And hazardous chemicals, such as:

Paints  
Varnishes  
Thinners  
Waste Oils  
Photographic Solutions  
Pesticides

These items can overtax or destroy the biological digestion taking place within your system.

